

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MASERU 00296 191007Z

20

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 EA-06 /060 W

----- 117419

R 190745Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4751

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 296

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, LT, CH

SUBJECT: GOL FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT PRC

1. FOREIGN MINISTER HAS TOLD AMBASSADOR IN CONFIDENCE, IN
CONTEXT OF CONVERSATION ABOUT GENERAL SOUTHERN AFRICA SITUATION,
THAT HE AND HIS WIFE HAD ACCEPTED INVITATION TO VISIT PRC IN MAY.
KOTSOKOANE SAID SINCE U.S. HAD TAKEN STEPS TOWARD NORMALIZING
RELATIONS WITH CHINA, HE SAW NOTHING WRONG WITH HIS PAYING A VISIT
WHICH WOULD BE FOR OBSERVATION AND EXPLORATION ONLY.

2. ALTHOUGH NEWS OF KOTSOKOANE'S VISIT, WHEN IT BECOMES PUBLIC,
WILL CAUSE SOME JITTERS IN REPUBLIC OF CHINA EMBASSY HERE, WE
WOULD CAUTION AGAINST READING TOO MUCH INTO IT AT THIS STAGE.
ALTHOUGH LESOTHO UNDOUBTEDLY FEELS INCREASINGLY DRAWN TOWARD
THIRD WORLD AND THEREFORE TOWARD PRC, IT ALSO REALIZES SOME
PRACTICAL ADVANTAGES FROM ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH TAIWAN, FROM
WHICH IT OBTAINS CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF AID, FOR THE SHORT RUN
AT LEAST, IT IS LIKELY THAT GOL WILL MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
WITH ROC.
HAUGHT

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NNN

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